

Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC)

October 19, 2010

MINUTES

Attendance: David Weitzer, George Lechliden, Robert Beall, Tom Linthicum, Tim McGrath, Eddie Kuhlman, Jim Clifford, Chuck Schuster, Drew Stabler, Kelly Lewis, Randy Stabler, Lois Stoner, Jane Evans, Gene Walker
Patrick Brown could not attend

Guests: Joe Brown, Vince Berg

Staff: Callum Murray, Jeremy Criss, Nancy Aldous

Introductions: Everyone introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes from September 21, 2010:

Criss asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 21, 2010 minutes. Hearing none George Lechliden motioned to approve the minutes as written, Lois Stoner seconded and the motion passed approving the September 21, 2010 AAC minutes as written.

Presentation by Joe Brown Patriot Wildlife Management Services:

Joe Brown presented a power point presentation surrounding this company and the services offered to landowners and government agencies to manage white-tail deer and other wildlife. Joe reviewed the progress of the Deer Donation Program that he administers with Billy Willard under the contract with the County Government DED. Joe said that a total of 139 deer have been donated so far for the 2010-2011 firearms season and the regular shot gun season will not start until November. We are way ahead of where we were a year ago. With the addition of County owned property in Dickerson Site II, Joe believes we will surpass last year's grand donation total of 304 deer. Joe said that 38 deer have been donated so far from the Site II property and the goal for Site II total 120 deer for 2010-2011. Joe thanked Tom Linthicum for providing his farm in Laytonsville for the cold box located on the eastern side of the County and Billy Willard for providing his farm in Poolesville for the cold box located on the western side of the County. Tim McGrath asked Joe how he was doing with the WSSC for managing deer on their properties. Joe said that he does not work with WSSC. Jeremy said the contact representative for WSSC is Jim Benton and his office is located at the WSSC office at Brighton Dam. Randy said that WSSC only provides 3 days for hunting deer and this is not enough to get the job done.

ZTA 10-12 New Child Lot Standards:

Criss said that the County Council will schedule the ZTA 10-12 for action on October 26, 2010. Tim McGrath commented that it has taken 5-6 years to resolve this issue. Callum thanked the

AAC, Jim Clifford, and the APAB for their collect work on the ZTA. Tim McGrath said that he attended the APAB and participated in their discussion on the ZTA.

Organizational Reform Commission:

Criss referenced the packet with contained specific pages of the Organizational Reform Committee ORC that the members were appointed by the County Executive and charged with recommending how the County government can save money and reduce duplication of services. Criss that he only included those pages of the minutes from the ORC that relate to the discussion surrounding the removal of Work Force Services and Agricultural Services from the DED. Criss said that he understands representatives from the Chambers suggested this as a way to look at down county business and economic activity down county. Criss said that in talking with the Council staff representative-Justina Ferber, assigned to the ORC, the suggestion to remove Agricultural Services may not occur and Justina said she would keep Criss informed if the status changes. It was suggested that more agriculture outreach and education is needed with folks that work and live down county to better understand the importance of agriculture. Randy said that folks need to better understand how the agricultural community was actively involved with the winter snow storms and farmers contributed to the clean up and remove the snow to open and help open up the County again. Tom Linthicum said that down county folks need to understand some of the important economic contributions of agriculture that were presented at the Agricultural Leaders Luncheon during the County Fair. Chuck Schuster pulled up the power point presentation that David Weitzer presented with these figures: Ag employs over 10,000 people, contributes \$243 million in economic activity.

Legislation:

Criss referenced the summary of agricultural legislation that was passed during the 2010 Maryland Legislative Session. There were no questions or comments.

Proposed Historic Preservation Sites in the Upper Patuxent Area:

Criss referenced the proposed sites to be considered as part of the Historic Preservation Master Plan for the Upper Patuxent area. Jim Clifford asked what happened to the historic preservation amendments offered by council member Knapp. The Council would not take action on the amendments offered by council member Knapp. After additional discussion, George Lechliden motioned and Drew Stabler seconded to write to the County Council and request that they take action on the HPA 09-01 before the end of the calendar year 2010. The motion passed and it was requested that both George Leventhal and Nancy Floreen be copied on this letter. Callum said the Planning Board held a public hearing on October 14, 2010 and a work session is scheduled for November 4, 2010. Robert Beall said that Mrs. Isaacs thanked those folks that helped her obtain her permit approved.

Poolesville meet and greet for farmers and Council Candidate Craig Rice:

Eddie Kuhlman said he is working with Jamison's on a list of questions to discuss with candidate Rice along with an agenda. The meet and greet will be tomorrow night held at the Poolesville Town Hall and it will begin at 7:00pm. Eric Spates suggested that the need for more tree trimming needs to be included for the discussion. It was suggested that Craig needs to better understand the impact of historic preservation on property owners including farmers. Jane Evans said the Craig needs to understand that there is a western and eastern side of the Agricultural Reserve. Callum suggested that the Zoning Rewrite Task Force is looking at the agricultural zones and if the AAC believes that a specific use should go from Special Exception SE to Permitted by right, this is needed now. Jane Evans said there is a new 2011 Farm Bureau Resolution on this topic. Randy Stable offered his experience in visiting Flying W Farms in West Virginia www.flyingWfarmsLLC.com where the owner established a slaughtering facility and restaurant on the farm where the food is produced. Randy said all of these uses were permitted by the local government and they are serviced by well and septic system. Tim McGrath said that South Mountain Creamery located in Middletown is another example of an expanded agricultural operation that we need to look at for application in Montgomery County.

New AAC Appointments:

Criss referenced the message in the packet that outlined the folks where their terms of appointment are ending in December Jim Clifford and George Lechliden and those folks eligible for reappointment of a second term Robert Beall and Randy Stabler. The non-farmers are eligible for another one year term. The AAC discussed possible candidates for appointment.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next scheduled Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2010.